OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E. Secretary to the Commission

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DIRECTION 10

Determination of the gender to be attributed to the names of sixty genera of mammals placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN DIRECTION 10

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(12th August 1953)
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Canberra, A.C.T., Australia) (15th October 1954)
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Doc. Dr. Ferninand Prantl (Národni Museum v Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia) (30th

October 1954)
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Professor Enrico Tortonese (Instituto e Museo di Zoologia della Università di Torino,

Torino, Italy) (16th December 1954)

DIRECTION 10

DETERMINATION OF THE GENDER TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE NAMES OF SIXTY GENERA OF MAMMALS PLACED ON THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" IN THE PERIOD UP

TO THE END OF 1936

RULING:—(1) The gender to be attributed to each of the under-mentioned generic names, placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the *Opinions* severally noted below, is hereby determined as being the masculine gender:—

(a) Names dealt with in Opinion 75:

Bos Linnaeus, 1758; Castor Linnaeus, 1758; Delphinus Linnaeus, 1758; Erinaceus Linnaeus, 1758; Hippopotamus Linnaeus, 1758; Monodon Linnaeus, 1758; Moschus Linnaeus, 1758; Sus Linnaeus, 1758; Ursus Linnaeus, 1758;

(b) Names dealt with in Opinion 91:

Arvicola Lacépède, 1799; Ateles Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire (E.), 1806; Bison Smith (C.H.), 1827; Bradypus Linnaeus, 1758; Canis Linnaeus, 1758; Cebus Erxleben, 1777; Cervus Linnaeus, 1758; Choloepus Illiger, 1811; Cricetus Leske, 1779; Didelphis Linnaeus, 1758; Erethizon Cuvier (G.F.), 1823; Gulo Pallas, 1780; Halichoerus Nilsson (S.), 1820; Lepus Linnaeus, 1758; Lynx Kerr (R.), 1792; Mus Linnaeus, 1758; Ovibos Blainville, 1816; Phyllostomus Lacépède, 1799; Procyon Storr, 1780; Putorius Cuvier (G.L.C.F.D.), 1817; Rangifer Smith (C.H.), 1827; Rhinolophus Lacépède, 1799; Sciurus Linnaeus, 1758; Sorex Linnaeus, 1758; Vespertilio Linnaeus, 1758;

- (c) Name dealt with in *Opinion* 109: *Hippotragus* Sundevall, 1845;
- (d) Name dealt with in *Opinion* 112: *Trichechus* Linnaeus, 1758;
- (e) Names dealt with in *Opinion* 122:

 Colobus Illiger, 1811; Hylobates Illiger, 1811;

 Lemur Linnaeus, 1758; Tarsius Storr, 1780.
- (2) The gender to be attributed to each of the undermentioned generic names, placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the *Opinions* severally noted below, is hereby determined as being the feminine gender:—
 - (a) Names dealt with in *Opinion* 75:

Balaena Linnaeus, 1758; Hystrix Linnaeus, 1758; Ovis Linnaeus, 1758; Phoca Linnaeus, 1758; Talpa Linnaeus, 1758;

(b) Names dealt with in Opinion 91:

Alces Gray (J.E.), 1821; Capra Linnaeus, 1758; Condylura Illiger, 1811; Crocidura Wagler (J.G.), 1832; Cystophora Nilsson (S.), 1820; Dasyprocta Illiger, 1811; Felis Linnaeus, 1758; Myrmecophaga Linnaeus, 1758; Nasua Storr, 1780; Rupicapra Blainville, 1816;

(c) Name dealt with in *Opinion* 108: *Gazella* Blainville, 1816;

- (d) Name dealt with in *Opinion* 111:

 Nycteris Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire (E.) & Cuvier (G.F.),
 1795:
- (e) Names dealt with in *Opinion* 122:

 Gorilla Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire (I.), 1852; *Pithecia*Desmarest (A.G.), 1804;
- (3) The gender to be attributed to the under-mentioned generic name, placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in *Opinion* 110, is hereby determined as being the neuter gender:—*Lagidium* Meyen, 1833.

I.—THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT "DIRECTION"

Under a General Directive issued to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, it is under instructions to attribute the appropriate gender to each name placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology prior to that Congress. The required action has already been taken by the Commission, as regards names placed on the Official List by Rulings given in Opinions 182 to 194, by Direction 3 issued in 1954 and, as regards names similarly dealt with in Opinions 134 to 181 by Directions 7 and 9 also issued in 1954. By the adoption of the foregoing Directions the Commission has discharged its obligations under the above Directive in respect of all names placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology at the Session held by the Commission at Lisbon in 1935 and also of all names similarly codified by Rulings given in Opinions adopted in the period between

that Session and the Session held in Paris in 1948. There therefore now remains the task involved in giving effect to the foregoing Directive in respect of names placed on the Official List prior to the Lisbon (1935) Session (including a small number of names placed on the List before that Session, for which the Opinions recording the decisions so taken were not published until October 1936). As a first step towards placing the International Commission in a position to comply with the General Directive discussed above, the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature decided in May 1951 to seek expert advice on the question of the gender to be assigned to the generic names placed on the Official List prior to the Paris Session. Accordingly, after appropriate consultations, the Trust invited Mr. F. J. Lelievre of Bedford College, London University, to furnish a Report on this subject. The very valuable Report furnished by Mr. Lelievre forms the basis of the action subsequently taken by the Commission in this matter. In addition, the assistance of specialists in the groups concerned has been obtained for the purpose of ascertaining in the case of each generic name whether the gender currently adopted is the correct gender as shown in Mr. Lelievre's Report.

2. The names placed on the Official List prior to the Lisbon (1935) Session amount to five hundred and sixty-three (563) in number. In considering the procedure to be followed for dealing with this large number of names, Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, came to the conclusion that the most convenient course would be to submit to the Commission a series of proposals, each concerned with the gender to be attributed to the names of genera belonging to some large systematic unit such as a Class or Phylum. adoption of this procedure would, it was considered, both expedite the submission of proposals to the Commission by making it possible to undertake successively the desired consultations with specialists in the various groups, and facilitate also the consideration of the proposals submitted by reason of the names included in each proposal forming, from the taxonomic point of view, a relatively homogeneous group. It was further decided that the first instalment of proposals should be concerned with the names of the genera of mammals placed on the Official List in the pre-Lisbon (1935) period, these names being, for the most part, very well-known, and the question of the gender to be attributed to them presenting few questions of difficulty.

3. In accordance with the plan of procedure outlined above, Mr. Hemming on 26th January 1955 submitted the following paper, bearing the Number Z.N.(S.)900, to the Commission for consideration:—

Determination of the gender of names placed on the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology" in the period up to the end of 1936: First Instalment (names of genera of mammals)

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.,

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

By the Ruling given in its *Direction* 9 (1954, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 2: 705—718) the International Commission discharged, so far as concerns the *Opinions* (*Opinions* 134—181) embodying decisions taken by it during its Session held at Lisbon in 1935, the duty imposed on it by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, of assigning an appropriate gender to each name previously placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

- 2. It is necessary now to make a start with the corresponding task in relation to the generic names placed on the *Official List* by the Rulings given in the pre-Lisbon *Opinions*. The undertaking is one of some magnitude, for the number of names involved amounts to the considerable total of 563. Nevertheless, it is essential that this matter should be disposed of by the Commission as rapidly as possible, for the assignment of a gender to each of the generic names concerned must be carried out before the long-awaited publication of the *Official List* in book-form can be achieved.
- 3. Two distinct issues have to be examined in connection with each generic name, namely:—(1) What is the gender correctly attributable to that name? (2) Is the gender so determined the gender customarily assigned to that name by specialists in the group concerned? As regards the first of these questions the Commission is again indebted to Mr. F. J. Lelievre (London University, Bedford College) who has reported separately on the gender attributable to each of the generic names concerned. On the second of these questions an examination has been made of recent catalogues, checklists and major monographs for the purpose of checking for each generic name whether the gender attributed to that name in Mr. Lelievre's Report is the gender currently used for that name by specialists in the group concerned. In the present case the entire list has been kindly checked by Dr. T. C. S. Morrison-Scott (British Museum (Natural History)),

who has reported that the genders now proposed to be attributed to the generic names in question are in harmony with the current practice of mammalogists.

- 4. The pre-Lisbon *Opinions* contain Rulings placing the names of sixty-two generic names in the Class Mammalia on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. These Rulings were distributed among the following nine *Opinions*:—*Opinion* 75 (14 names); *Opinion* 91 (35 names); *Opinions* 104 and 108 to 112 (1 name each); *Opinion* 122 (8 names). Examination showed that one of these entries (the entry in *Opinion* 104 relating to the name *Cercopithecus* Linnaeus) was defective and that name has therefore been the subject of a further Ruling which has been embodied in *Opinion* 238 (1954, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 4:351—360). In the revised Ruling so given the appropriate gender was attributed to this generic name. The number of generic names of mammals placed on the *Official List* in pre-Lisbon *Opinions* which now require attention is therefore sixty-one.
- 5. I accordingly now recommend the International Commission to give a Ruling that in respect of each of the sixty-one generic names of mammals specified in Annexe 1 to the present note the gender to be inserted in the entry on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology regarding that name shall be the gender shown against that name in the foregoing Annexe. As I have already explained, the gender now proposed to be attributed to these names is, to the best of my belief and according to the investigations which I have carried out, (a) the gender correctly attributable to that name and (b) the gender currently used for that name by mammalogists. In two cases only did Mr. Lelievre insert special comments in his Report. These are discussed in Annexe 2 to the present paper.

ANNEXE 1

Gender proposed to be inscribed in the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology" in respect of the names of genera of mammals placed on that "List" in the period up to the end of 1936

Generic Name	Gender proposed to be assigned to name speci- fied in Col. 1	"Opinion" in which name specified in Col. 1 was placed on "Official List"
(1)	(2)	(3)
Balaena Linnaeus, 1758	Feminine	75
Bos Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	,,
Castor Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	2.2

Generic Name	Gender proposed to be assigned to name speci- fied in Col. 1	"Opinion" in which name specified in Col. 1 was placed on "Official List"
(1)	(2)	(3)
Delphinus Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	75
Erinaceus Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	,,
Hippopotamus Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	,,
Hystrix Linnaeus, 1758	Feminine	,,
Monodon Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	,,
Moschus Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	,,
Ovis Linnaeus, 1758	Feminine	,,
Phoca Linnaeus, 1758	Feminine	,,
Sus Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	,,
Talpa Linnaeus, 1758	Feminine	,,
Ursus Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	??
Alces Gray, 1821	Feminine	91
Arvicola Lacépède, 1799	Masculine	**
Ateles Geoffroy, 1806	Masculine	**
Bison Smith, 1827	Masculine	"
Bradypus Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	92
Canis Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	"
Capra Linnaeus, 1758	Feminine	"
Cebus Erxleben, 1777	Masculine Masculine	,,
Cervus Linnaeus, 1758 Choloepus Illiger, 1811	Masculine	,,
Condylura Illiger, 1811	Feminine	,,
Cricetus Leske, 1779	Masculine	,,
Crocidura Wagler, 1832	Feminine	,,
Cystophora Nilsson, 1820	Feminine	,,
Dasyprocta Illiger, 1811	Feminine	"
Didelphis Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	;; ;;
Erethizon Cuvier, 1823	Masculine	,,
Felis Linnaeus, 1758	Feminine	**
Gulo Pallas, 1780	Masculine	,,
Halichoerus Nilsson, 1820	Masculine	22
Lepus Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	,,
Lynx Kerr, 1792	Masculine	,,
Mus Linnaeus, 1758	Masculine	,,
Myrmecophaga Linnaeus, 1758	Feminine	"
Nasua Storr, 1780	Feminine	,,
Ovibos Blainville, 1816	Masculine	,,
Phyllostomus Lacépède, 1799	Masculine	,,
Procyon Storr, 1780	Masculine	**
Putorius Cuvier, 1817	Masculine	>>
Rangifer Smith, 1827	Masculine	,,
Rhinolophus Lacépède, 1799	Masculine	"
Rupicapra Blainville, 1816	Feminine	"

which

Generic Name	Gender proposed to be assigned to name speci- fied in Col. 1	" Opinion" in which name specified in Col. 1 was placed on " Official List"
(1) Sciurus Linnaeus, 1758 Sorex Linnaeus, 1758 Vespertilio Linnaeus, 1758 Gazella Blainville, 1816 Hippotragus Sundevall, 1845 Lagidium Meyen, 1833 Nycteris Geoffroy & Cuvier,	(2) Masculine Masculine Masculine Feminine Masculine Neuter Feminine	(3) 91 ,,, 108 109 110 111
1795 Trichechus Linnaeus, 1758 Colobus Illiger, 1811 Galago Geoffroy, 1796 Gorilla Geoffroy, 1852 Hylobates Illiger, 1811 Lemur Linnaeus, 1758 Pithecia Desmarest, 1804 Tarsius Storr, 1780	Masculine Masculine Feminine Feminine Masculine Masculine Feminine Masculine	112 122 ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

ANNEXE 2

Notes on the gender attributable to the generic names "Ovis" Linnaeus, 1758, and "Talpa" Linnaeus, 1758, respectively

(1) The generic name "Ovis" Linnaeus, 1758:

Mr. Lelievre included in his Report the following note on the gender of the generic name Ovis:—

The feminine gender predominates strongly in this word and isolated instances of the masculine gender may be disregarded.

2. When in 1758 Linnaeus established the nominal genus Ovis, he placed in it three species, of which two were given specific names consisting of nouns, while the name given to the remaining species was a third declension adjective which does not show whether the gender of the generic name was regarded as being masculine or feminine. For the first species placed in this genus (Ovis aries) Linnaeus however cited six varietal names all of which he cited in the feminine gender (rustica; anglica; hispanica; polycerata; africana; laticaudata). is possible that Linnaeus looked upon these adjectives as being in agreement with the word "varietas" but he did not actually cite that word and it is just as likely that he regarded these adjectives as being in agreement with the generic name Ovis. While the evidence is not conclusive, it is likely that Linnaeus regarded this generic name as being of the feminine gender.

- 3. Current catalogues, checklists and monographs all treat this generic name as being feminine, and Dr. T. C. S. Morrison-Scott (*British Museum (Natural History*)) has informed me that this is the general practice of mammalogists.
- 4. For the reason explained by Mr. Lelievre (paragraph 1), supported by the evidence provided by the author of this generic name (paragraph 2), I conclude that this name should be treated as being of the feminine gender. This conclusion is in harmony with the current practice of specialists (paragraph 3).

(2) The generic name "Talpa" Linnaeus, 1758:

Mr. Lelievre reported that the word "talpa" is a feminine word but that Lewis & Short's Latin Dictionary gives a single instance where it was treated as being of the masculine gender.

- 2. The gender attributable to this word has already been considered by the Commission in connection with a generic name in the Class Insecta where it is used as the second portion of a compound word, the name in question being *Gryllotalpa* Latreille, [1802—1803]. In this case the Commission decided to adopt the feminine gender. This decision has been embodied in *Direction* 9 (1954, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 2: 705—718).
- 3. The generic name *Talpa* Linnaeus, 1758, was established for two nominal species, to each of which the specific name given was an adjective cited in the feminine gender (*europaea*; *asiatica*). It is clear therefore that Linnaeus himself regarded the generic name *Talpa* as being a feminine word. In this he has been followed by all subsequent workers.
- **4.** Registration of the present application: Upon the receipt of Mr. Hemming's paper, the question of the gender to be assigned to the names of genera of mammals placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* prior to the Lisbon (1935) Session of the Commission was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 900.

II.—THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

- 5. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)4: On 26th January 1955 a Voting Paper was issued in which each Member of the Commission was asked (1) to state whether he agreed "that, in conformity with the General Directive relating to the recording on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology of the gender of each name placed thereon prior to 1948, issued to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, the gender of the generic names of mammals specified in Column (2) of Annexe 1 to the note by the Secretary submitted simultaneously with the present Voting Paper should be entered in the foregoing Official List in respect of the names enumerated in Column (1) of that Annexe" [i.e. the proposals submitted in Annexe 1 to the application reproduced in paragraph 3 of the present Direction] and (2), if he did not so agree as regards any given item, to indicate the item concerned.
- 6. The Prescribed Voting Period: As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 26th February 1955.
- 7. Withdrawal of the proposal submitted in relation to the generic name "Galago" Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire (E.), 1796: On 26th February 1955, Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, placed the following Minute on the Commission's File Z.N.(S.) 900:—

Withdrawal of the proposal submitted in V.P.(O.M.)(55)4 in relation to the generic name "Galago" Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire (E.), 1796

MINUTE by FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E. Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

In a letter dated 20th February 1955, Commissioner Angel Cabrera has questioned the desirability of accepting the feminine gender for the generic name *Galago* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire (E.), 1796, having regard to the fact (1) that the word "galago" is not a Classical Latin word, and (2) that there has been a large preponderating usage of the masculine gender for this name in the literature of mammalogy.

- 2. The considerations advanced by Commissioner Cabrera appear to me to call for a reconsideration of the gender to be assigned to the foregoing generic name. Accordingly, in order to permit of the further examination of this matter, I, as Secretary, hereby direct that the proposal in regard to the gender to be assigned to the name Galago Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire (E.), 1796, submitted in Voting Paper V.P. (O.M) (55)4 be treated as having been withdrawn from the matters submitted in that Voting Paper for decision by the Commission.
- 8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)4: At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the Voting on the proposals submitted in Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)4, exclusive of the proposal relating to the name *Galago* Geoffroy, 1796, withdrawn therefrom by the direction given in the Minute by the Secretary dated 26th February 1955 (paragraph 7 above), was as follows:—
 - (a) Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-one (21) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received):

Sylvester-Bradley; Lemche; Boschma; Riley; Hering; Vokes; Mayr; Kühnelt; Bodenheimer; Key; Jaczewski; Esaki; Stoll; do Amaral; Hemming; Dymond; Tortonese; Bradley (J.C.); Miller; Cabrera; Bonnet;

(b) Negative Votes:

None:

(c) On Leave of Absence, two (2):

Holthuis; Mertens;

(d) Voting Papers not returned, two (2):

Hankó¹; Prantl.

9. Declaration of Result of Vote: On 27th February 1955, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission,

¹ Commissioner Hankó returned (on 11th March 1955) a late affirmative vote.

acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)4, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

- 10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Direction": On 2nd March 1955, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)4.
- 11. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.
- **12.** The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction* Ten (10) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Second day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five.

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

FRANCIS HEMMING